

THE ADVOCATE

Your aged care and disability advocacy news, 18 July 2025

Contact us: 1800 700 600

Message from the CEO

Securing the future of ongoing advocacy support for vulnerable Queenslanders

June 30 2025 was somewhat of a funding cliff for ADA Australia, in that the funding contracts for our aged care advocacy, disability advocacy, care finder and legal services programs were ending at this time and required renewal. While I am completely confident in our track record, and know that these services are desperately needed, nothing is ever certain until it is signed on the dotted line.

I am pleased to advise that ADA Australia has secured funding to continue delivering these programs for the next 4-5 years and I thank the federal and state governments for continuing to fund these critical services.

I hope this gives certainty and comfort for older people and people with disability in the community who need and use our advocacy and legal services, particularly as we navigate our way through significant changes to aged care and the NDIS. ADA Australia has been here for over 30 years, and we look forward to serving the Queensland community for many more.

Delay of the new Aged Care Act

In our last newsletter, I was adamant in my calls for no delay to the start of the new Aged Care Act, concerned that if we wait for everything to be perfect, we will never start.

However, aged care advocacy organisations have reluctantly supported the 4-month delay to the implementation of the new Aged Care Act as it was becoming clear that older people and service providers needed more details and information to make informed decisions. [Craig Gear CEO of OPAN explains](#).

I maintain that service providers don't need to wait to start embracing a rights-based approach – putting the needs and choices of older people at the centre of aged care. I think first it's a change in perspective and new approaches to service delivery.

Welcome new Board Director

I am pleased to welcome Michelle Roach to the ADA Australia Board. Michelle has a personal connection to the aged care and disability sectors and brings her values driven leadership style, and a strong commitment to ensuring equitable access to advocacy and support services for vulnerable people to our organisation. She is passionate about delivering long-term public value through transparent governance, inclusive decision-making, and financially sustainable outcomes which will be a great addition to our Board. Welcome Michelle.

Age Well, Stay Connected Social Isolation Workshops

After a successful [inaugural workshop](#) for the Seniors Social Isolation Peak in Brisbane in March, I am pleased to advise that we are taking the workshops to regional Queensland including Townsville, on the 3rd of September, and Longreach on the 10th of October. These workshops not only raise awareness of the issue, and inform people about they can do personally, but also encourage collaboration between local organisations and networks. Stay tuned for more details about these events.

Stand Up, Speak Out Australian Elder Abuse Conference 2026 returns to Queensland

We are proud to be working in partnership with Elder Abuse Action Australia and Caxton Legal Centre to co-host the [Australian Elder Abuse Conference 27 to 29 July 2026 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast](#).

Making elder abuse a thing of the past cannot come soon enough. But it needs the power of our collective minds, leadership and collaboration to find solutions to end. This conference will provide that chance for all sectors of the community to come together. More information about the conference including early bird registration and sponsorship opportunities are included in this edition.



#QLSAwards Congratulations Karen!

I am delighted that our Principal Solicitor at ADA Law, Karen Williams, is a finalist for the Access to Justice Award in the Queensland Law Society Awards. It is a great achievement and recognition of Karen's dedication and persistence in championing the rights of older people and people with disability to have agency over their lives. Congratulations to Karen and all the finalists, and we look forward to the announcement of the winners in August.

Until next time.

Geoff Rowe

Aged care advocacy, disability advocacy and legal programs secured





Meet the newest member of our Board

Michelle Roach is an accomplished finance professional with over 20 years of leadership experience across the energy, resources, infrastructure, and government sectors. She is recognised for her expertise in financial stewardship, capital governance, strategic transformation, risk management, and regulatory compliance within complex, highly regulated, and capital-intensive environments.

Michelle currently serves as General Manager Finance Business Partnering at Stanwell Corporation Limited, where she leads financial strategy, capital investment governance, and enterprise-wide financial performance across a diverse energy portfolio. She is also a committee member of the Stanwell–Wambo Joint Venture with Cubico Sustainable Investments, supporting major renewable energy and transition projects.

Her senior executive experience includes key finance leadership roles at AGL Energy, overseeing financial governance and investment planning for some of Australia's largest power stations, and driving major energy transition programs. Michelle's earlier career includes senior financial and commercial roles at Yancoal, Rio Tinto, BHP Mitsubishi Alliance, and Boeing Australia, where she shaped investment strategy, strengthened project governance frameworks, and drove enterprise-wide cost and performance improvements across the mining, defence, and heavy industry sectors.

Michelle's appointment to the Board of ADA Australia reflects her personal connection to the aged care and disability sectors, her values-driven leadership style, and her strong commitment to ensuring equitable access to advocacy and support services for vulnerable Australians.

She is a Fellow of CPA Australia (FCPA), a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), and holds formal qualifications in accounting. Michelle is passionate about delivering long-term public value through transparent governance, inclusive decision-making, and financially sustainable outcomes.

[ADA Australia's Board Directors](#)



2026 Australian Elder Abuse Conference, Gold Coast

Early Bird delegate registrations for the 2026 Australian Elder Abuse Conference are open!

Visit the conference website - <https://conference.eaaa.org.au/>

The 2026 Australian Elder Abuse Conference is a national gathering of people who care deeply about creating a safer, more just future for older Australians. It's a space where bold conversations are welcomed, living experiences are honoured and collaborative solutions are forged.

This conference provides the platform for many voices to be heard. Together, we'll challenge harmful norms, explore new ideas, and push for real, lasting change.

Over three dynamic days, delegates will connect across sectors, share knowledge and confront the complex realities of abuse and ageism. From powerful stories to innovative responses, our agenda is shaped by those at the forefront doing the work, and those with lived and living experience.

This is a call to action. To listen. To stand up. To speak out. Not just for today, but for the generations to come.

We are proud to be co-hosts of this event in Queensland. Please contact us if your organisation is interested in exhibiting at the event or being a conference sponsor. There are a range of partnership opportunities that can be tailored to suit your objectives and budget. Contact CEO geoff.rowe@adaaustralia.com.au.

Stand Up, Speak Out
Because silence is never the solution
27-29 JULY 2026
The 2026 Australian Elder Abuse Conference will be held on the Gold Coast, the land of the Yugambeh/Kombumerri peoples, at the RACV Royal Pines Resort.

Gold Coast Disability Advocacy Clinic

If you have questions about accessing the NDIS, or Disability Support Pension (DSP), or need support, come along to our Gold Coast Disability Advocacy Clinic on the 1st Wednesday of every month at the [Southport Community Centre](#), 6 Lawson Street, Southport. Our experienced disability advocates will be onsite and ready to help with your enquiries.



To book an appointment call 1800 818 338 or email info@adaaustralia.com.au, or just turn up on the day.

OPAN's Big Q&A Webinar



Register now - <https://opan.org.au/event/big-q-and-a/>

Thank you South West and Central Queensland!

It was a real pleasure to be able to visit regional Queensland communities to talk about your aged care questions and concerns at our recent round of Aged Care Community Conversations. Thank you to everyone who joined us in Roma, Charleville, Goondiwindi, Longreach, Barcaldine and Emerald - almost 200 people!

Community Development Officer, Scott Green, said it was informative to hear the concerns of older people living in the regions and rural communities directly so we know where we need to provide more information or call on government for change. We took away these key issues:

- difficulty navigating My Aged Care
- uncertainty about current Home Care Package level and what is included in aged care agreements
- concerns about long wait times for applications, assessments and services
- limited service provider choices
- recruitment and staffing challenges for providers resulting in inconsistency in care workers for clients
- lack of available allied health services

If you have any concerns about your aged care services or need help accessing aged care, we are your free advocacy service here to help. Call the Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600.



Old is Beautiful

M

Thank you for sharing Brisbane! Mt Glorious, Cairns and Winton next.

#old is beautiful



BRISBANE

Older Brisbanites share wisdom on beauty and ageing

Riders' Photoshoot Mt Glorious



Calling all senior riders. Get your motor running and head up to Mt Glorious for an exclusive free photo session with Dean Saffron and a workshop on combatting ageism and supporting older riders.

Wednesday 6 August 2025
Mt Glorious Cafe

Limited spots available. Reserve yours now!

Contact Geoff Rowe (owner of Lola)
0474 774 273
geoff.rowe@adaaustralia.com.au

#old is beautiful

ADAAustralia
Your aged and disability advocates



If you would like a printable copy, please visit www.adaaustralia.com.au or email info@adaaustralia.com.au